

OCTOBER 2023

PFOX

The Official Newsletter of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

A Time for Reflection and Reassurance

By Flo Hubbs,
Director of PFOX

It's October, and that means pumpkins, falling leaves, hot cider and apples. At least, it does for those of us blessed to live in four-season climates.

In any case, as the days get shorter, it's a fine time for reflection about who we are and why we're here. And how much we're loved.

Recently, I read a message written by the late pastor Ray Stedman, part of which I thought would be worth sharing. It's called "Who Is Sufficient?" He started with a verse from Paul:

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him (2 Corinthians 2:14).

What does all of this mean? I think it means that the world was unimpressed by the apostle Paul. With none of the physical charm or personal charisma of modern media darlings, this ordinary, nondescript Jewish man traveled around the Roman Empire, preaching this great message . . . even at the very moment of his frustration with himself, Paul expected that God was going to do something through him, because Jesus Christ was leading Paul in triumph, and his ministry did not rest on his own feeble attempts to do something for God. A great, widespread testimony of the fragrance of Jesus Christ was going out. People



were being set free, and Paul's ministry was a success . . .

If I did not believe in that great principle, I would have resigned from the pastorate many times . . . every morning I spoke from a heavy heart because my child, who had been struggling with her faith for several years, was wandering farther and farther away.

Despite our daily prayers, she seemed to be going further into hurtful things rather than drawing closer, so that her family was being terribly hurt.

As a parent, you cannot face

something like that without being aware that you may have contributed a great deal to the reasons for it. The enemy is quick to assault you, to accuse you. So, I was ministering with a heavy heart, out of deep, personal anguish. The only thing that enabled me to keep going was that I had confidence in what Paul is saying here, that despite the personal frustration and darkness that I was going through, I was also being led in triumph by Jesus Christ; and out of my personal weakness would come a great manifestation of the strength of our

Lord and the spreading of the fragrance of Christ.

That devotional from *The Power of His Presence* made me think of the many parents who struggle with the same feelings. When everything is hopeless, we must believe anyway. We have to make a conscious decision to live not on the basis of what we can see or do but on what God says He will do. With God all things are possible.

Not some. Not most. All!

Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have. Prayer can change the situation. It can change us! Finding Bible verses to pray for a loved one is helpful. The verses remind us of what God is doing for him or her. You can personalize the verses with your loved one's name in place of the pronouns.

For example, Isaiah 57:18-19 says: ***I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners, creating the praise of the lips. Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near, says the LORD, and I will heal him.***

Let's all hold tight to God's promises.

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. (II Cor. 1:20)

If you ask anything in the name of Jesus, He will do it so that God may be glorified in Him. (John 14:13-14)

This is a promise! And, God said He will never give us more than we can handle:

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (I Cor. 10:13)

God may not always immediately



deliver us from our trials, but He is always loving and will go through it with us. Just because He may feel distant doesn't mean that He's far away.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. (Deut. 31:6)

What situations have you faced in the past that seemed pretty hopeless? What role did faith and hope play in bringing you through that time?

How might you apply your past successes with faith, hope and prayer to your current situation in dealing with your child's homosexuality?

How might holding on to God's promises help you to see your current situation with grace eyes?

In Psalm 32, David tells of being in a bad way, utterly miserable because of unconfessed sin. God's love pursued

him anyway and He disciplined him. This is not the same as punishment. The Bible says the Lord disciplines the ones He loves and comforts them when they turn back to Him.

That's when the healing begins.

Where to Get Help

At PFOX, we know this can be a long journey. You're not alone. Our website (pfox.org) has lots of helpful materials. And we offer a **Parent Support Phone Conference call** on the **2nd & 4th Mondays** of each month and **Zoom calls** on the **third Wednesday** of each month. Email info4pfox@gmail.com for more info.

PFOX continues to thank you for your prayers, and we continue to pray for you & your family.

Thanks for your support of PFOX.

Flo

Scan this QR Code to check out our redesigned website!



Family & Friends Prayer List | Joel, Lance, Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher, Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin, Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole, David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James, Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen, Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara, Damon, Sam, Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery, Melanie, Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad, Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly, Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael, Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke, Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul, Bobby, Sandy, Brian, Larry, Alan, Christian Tom, Delores, Mark, Tara, Angela, Jessica, Dawn, Alicia, Jason, Frank, Paul, Edward, Maria, Mario, Michelle, Connor, Angela, Carl Jr., Marcus, Brandon, Gaylon, Edmond, Kesha, Shannon, Paige, Melissa, Donny, William, Wendall, Leno, Mandy, Andy, E., Erik, Lauren, Chris, Todd, Jayson, Carl III, Steve, Zachary, Kelly, Toby, Cody, Dylan, Wayne, Tom, Jeff, Walt, Cayce, Tim, David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc, Heather, Gary, Bill, John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy, Karen, Brian, Shellee, Pattie, Emily, Carrie, Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin, Phil, Bryce, Ethan, Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn, Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine, Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike, Lisa, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha, Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric, Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Joe and Idario, Miranda Marie, Sarah, Seth and Rob, Kent, Tim.